

Revelation 11:1-14  
Two Witnesses and The Second Woe

- 1) Jesus introduces the two witnesses—11:1-3
  - a) John is to measure the temple of God on earth during the Day of the LORD—11:1
    - i) What is included—11:1
      - (1) The inner temple [naos # 3485], the bronze altar, and the worshippers
    - ii) What is excluded—11:2 (Court of the Gentiles)
      - (1) Why? God will allow the nations to desecrate it for 3 ½ years
        - (a) Cf. Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:3-4
    - iii) This will be the third temple on earth (Solomon's & Zerubbabel's/Herod's)
  - b) Two witnesses introduced—11:3
    - i) Divine authorization, established extent (content [prophecy] and duration [3 ½ years]) of ministry, and clothing (a symbol of mourning concerning judgment)
  - c) The exact timing of their ministry is uncertain, though I lean toward the first half of the Tribulation period.
- 2) The ministry of the two witnesses—11:4-13
  - a) Their identification—11:4 (cf. Zechariah 4:1-14; 12-14)
    - i) No names are given nor should they be speculated. These are two real men doing a ministry for God on earth. There is no need to spiritualize this passage.
  - b) Their protection—11:5
  - c) Their authority—11:6
    - i) World-wide drought, in addition to the poisoning of the water supply with the third trumpet in 8:10-11
  - d) Their death—11:7-10 (the exact timing of this event is uncertain)
    - i) Their Satanically-influenced killer—11:7 (1<sup>st</sup> of 37 mentions of the Beast/Anti-Messiah)
    - ii) Their location is earthly Jerusalem—11:8
    - iii) They are shamefully insulted—11:9
    - iv) They are mocked—11:10
      - (1) "Those dwelling upon the earth" seems to be an expression for unbelievers (cf. 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 13:8, 14; 17:8)
  - e) Their resurrection and ascension—11:11-13 (midway through the Tribulation?)
    - i) Accompanied by a major earthquake that kills 7,000 specific people (literally "names of people")
    - ii) The saving response by (Jewish?) inhabitants of Jerusalem—they will fear and give glory to God (cf. 4:9; 14:7; 15:4; 16:9; 19:7)
    - iii) Remember Luke 16:31.
    - iv) This is the second of four resurrection events of believers: (1) Rapture; (2) 2 witnesses; (3) OT saints; and (4) Tribulation martyrs
- 3) The warning concerning the woes—11:14
  - a) The second is completed—11:14a
  - b) The third is imminent—11:14b